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TELEGRAM

February 11, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 728 - PRIORITY)  
TAGS: PREL  
Captions: None  
Subject: UAE DEPUTY PM PANDERS TO PUBLIC  
IRAQ OPINION ON  
Ref: None

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CXABU:

ACTION: POL  
INFO: DCM P/M ECON RSO AMB

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:TEWILLIAMS  
DRAFTED: POL:STWILLIAMS  
CLEARED: NONE

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PP RUEHC RUEHDE RUCNRAQ RHEHNSC RUEAIIA  
DE RUEHAD #0728 0420437  
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P 110437Z FEB 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8364  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 2793  
RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

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STPDTs

STATE FOR NEA/NGA AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECI: 02/09/2013

2011 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176  
TAGS: PREL UN IZ TC  
SUBJECT: UAE DEPUTY PM PANDERS TO PUBLIC  
OPINION ON IRAQ

REF: Abu Dhabi 676

11. (U) Classified by Charge d'Affaires Thomas Williams for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

¶2. (U) The Emirates News Agency reported 2/9 that UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin Zayid Al-Nahyan, on the margins of a meeting with visiting former UNSCOM inspector Scott Ritter, "stressed the need to allow the UN inspectors the opportunity to carry on their search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq." Sultan was also quoted as saying "the region cannot tolerate another war which may result in a catastrophe of unpredictable magnitude." The Deputy PM, who

is also UAE President Shaykh Zayid's second eldest son, used this opportunity to call for a lifting of the international sanctions on Iraq which he labeled "non-humanitarian" and "the causes (sic) of (the) death of thousands of innocent Iraqis and of (the) demolition of Iraq's economy and infrastructure." Finally, Sultan called on the international community to "apply pressure on Israel to stop its frenzied war against the Palestinian people."

**¶3. (U)** Ritter's 2/8 lecture at the Sultan Bin Zayid-sponsored, Arab League-associated, Zayid Center for Coordination and Follow-Up received widespread, front-page coverage in the UAE press (reftel). Ritter, who charged that the USG was in violation of international law, was quoted as saying that more than 95 percent of Iraq's WMD have been destroyed. He claimed that the photographs presented by the Secretary during his 2/5 UNSC presentation were taken during the Iran-Iraq war. As we previously reported, Ritter went out of his way to pan the Secretary's presentation, claiming that the USG charges are "inaccurate" and that Iraq had only one anthrax lab, which was "completely eliminated and destroyed" in 1996. Ritter complained that he had been "interrogated by the FBI" who "put a lot of pressure on me and accused me of spying for Iraq" following his latest Iraq visit. He then launched into a wholesale attack on U.S. policy, comparing it to "a car driven by a drunk driver, who is driving aimlessly and pushing himself to a disaster."

**¶4. (C)** Comment: As we noted reftel, UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff Muhammad Bin Zayid Al-Nahyan and Information Minister Abdullah Bin Zayid Al-Nahyan both privately welcomed the Secretary's presentation. Their elder half-brother Sultan is the most outspoken of Zayid's sons and often does not coordinate his statements with the rest of the leadership; we have been bluntly informed on at least one occasion that Sultan's remarks "do not reflect UAEG views." Nevertheless, Sultan frequently reflects popular sentiment and he is well aware that the overwhelming majority of Emiratis (71 percent according to a recent confidential poll) are against military action in Iraq.

SIPDIS

WILLIAMS